

NOAA In Your State

Georgia

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [coastal programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

[Highlights of NOAA in Georgia](#)

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary	Savannah	GA-1
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve	Sapelo Island	GA-1
Southeast River Forecast Center	Peachtree City	GA-3

The state of Georgia also has one Weather Forecasting Offices, one Regional Office, one Science on a Sphere® exhibition, and one National Estuarine Research Reserves.

Weather Forecast Office

Peachtree City GA-3

National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Georgia. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which one is in Georgia. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media, weather.gov, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction centers and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Georgia weather, visit www.weather.gov and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

Science On a Sphere®

Macon GA-2

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes. It is located at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon.

GA-1

Brunswick

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - U.S. Climate Reference Network

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manages the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Fort Pulaski/Savannah

National Ocean Service (NOS) - National Water Level Observation Network

NOS operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in the state of Georgia, which provides data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge

warning. This station is located at Fort Pulaski. The station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Savannah PORTS®](#)

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in the Savannah area. Real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation and include water level (tide) with meteorological data from one station at Fort Pulaski and a bridge air gap measurement system on the Talmadge Memorial Bridge.

[Glynco](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement: National Training Office](#)

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities.

[Sapelo Island](#)

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas focused on long-term research, monitoring, stewardship, education, and training. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed on a daily basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners. The 6,110 acre Sapelo Island Research Reserve was designated in 1976 and is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Sapelo Island is the fourth largest barrier island in the state and is one of the most pristine, providing habitat for endangered and threatened species including the Southern bald eagle, peregrine falcons, ospreys, brown pelicans, woodstorks, Wilson's plovers, American Alligators, loggerhead sea turtles, North Atlantic right whales, and manatees.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship](#)

The Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship program funds graduate student research and professional development opportunities within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The program supports collaborative research addressing local management challenges that may influence future policy and management strategies. The Davidson Fellow at the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus her research on quantifying estuarine water quality change and its influence on the relationship between ribbed mussel suspension-feeding behavior and phytoplankton community structure in southeastern Atlantic salt marshes.

[Cumberland Sound](#)

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Kings Bay PORTS®](#)

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) operates and serves maritime interests near the Cumberland Sound, St. Marys River Entrance and Kings Bay U.S. Navy Submarine Base. Real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation and include water level (tide) with meteorological data from one station, tidal current observations from four locations and wave observations from one location.

Savannah

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program](#)

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center supports the Savannah State University/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program. The goal is to conduct research in line with the interests of NOAA Fisheries while preparing students for careers in research, management, and public policy that support the sustainable harvest and conservation of our nation's living marine resources.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement](#)

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement's Southeast Division is headquartered in St. Petersburg, FL, with a field office in Savannah, GA.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary](#)

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary protects a vibrant hard-bottom area off the coast of Georgia. The reef's scattered rocky outcroppings and ledges provide homes for an abundance of marine life. Crabs, lobsters, soft corals, sponges, sea stars and other organisms form a dense carpet of living creatures, covering the nooks and crannies of Gray's Reef and giving it the name "live bottom." The reef attracts more than 900 species of invertebrates and over 200 species of fish, including black sea bass, snappers, groupers and mackerels. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, forage and rest year-round at Gray's Reef, and the reef is within the critical habitat and only known winter calving ground of the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale. The 22-square-mile sanctuary is the only protected natural reef and one of a few natural marine protected areas between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Cape Canaveral, Florida. It is one of the 14 marine protected areas that make up the National Marine Sanctuary System and is governed by the *National Marine Sanctuaries Act*. Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary beauty and marine resource attracts recreational boaters, anglers and divers, however given the sanctuary's remote ocean location 19 miles east of Sapelo Island, most people experience Gray's Reef through pictures, videos and exhibits.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Vessel Operations Coordinator](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations an officer at the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary in support of National Ocean Service scientific operations. This officer manages the daily operations of the Sanctuary's two vessels, as well as performs a variety of administrative and operational duties, such as managing marine field operations in collaboration with the Research Coordinator; working with the NOAA Small Boat Contract Engineer to assemble statements of work for yard periods and major maintenance items; serving as OIC or mate during most underway operations aboard site vessels; serving as on-scene NOAA Working Diver and Divemaster; assisting the Chief Scientist and divemaster aboard the NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster* during relevant research projects; acting as law enforcement liaison during GA Department of Natural Resources law enforcement boat patrols and USCG aircraft overflights; working with Federal, State, university, and NGO groups to conduct research within the sanctuary; and serving as property contact for the site.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [UGA/Sea Grant Marine Education Center and Aquarium](#) and [Shellfish Research Lab](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Georgia Sea Grant has several operations in Savannah, including operating the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium and the Shellfish Research lab, both at Skidaway Island.

GA-2

[Newton](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

[Macon](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere®](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

GA-3

[Hampton](#)

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Center Weather Service Unit](#)

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Atlanta Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) staff provides aviation forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in central Georgia, western South Carolina, western North Carolina, central Alabama, and eastern Tennessee.

[Peachtree City](#)

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Southeast River Forecast Center](#)

Co-located with the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Peachtree City, the NWS Southeast River Forecast Center (RFC) performs continuous river basin modeling and provides hydrologic forecast and guidance products for rivers and streams in for the southeastern U.S. covering most of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. These products include forecasts of river stage and flow, probabilistic river forecasts, reservoir inflow forecasts, gridded precipitation estimates and forecasts, spring flood outlooks, and flash flood and headwater guidance. Some of the RFCs in the western and central U.S. also provide water supply forecasts. RFCs work closely with local, state and federal water management agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey, to provide water and flood information for critical decisions (aka Impact-based Decision-Support Services or IDSS).

GA-5

Atlanta

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Georgia, ELP supports the Georgia Aquarium (Fulton) as a member of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network, which is a consortium of 25 aquariums and marine science education centers working together to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

GA-8

Macon

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Georgia, ELP supports the Museum of Arts and Sciences (Bibb), which has a permanent exhibit featuring NOAA's Science On a Sphere (SOS) and is a member of NOAA's SOS Users Collaborative Network (SOS Network). The SOS Network connects over 150 science education institutions worldwide to the latest NOAA data as part of a focused effort to increase environmental literacy at all ages.

GA-10

Watkinsville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [US Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Coastal

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Cooperation with States Program](#) and [Species Recovery Grants](#)

Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. A total of 25 U.S. territories and coastal states, including Georgia, currently participate in this program. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has received multiple awards through this program, including grants to support projects focused on Atlantic, shortnose, and Gulf sturgeon and loggerhead sea turtles.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal

ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the state. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Although Prescott grants have been awarded to recipients in GA in previous years, no grants were awarded in FY20. Nationwide, 43 competitive grants were awarded for a total of \$3.7 million.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, monitor factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the only federal program dedicated to mapping, characterizing, and understanding deep-sea coral ecosystems, and sharing the information needed to conserve these habitats. The Program -- called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act -- is working with other NOAA offices and external partners to conduct fieldwork to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. Since 2009, more than 42,500 square miles of seafloor have been mapped and surveyed for deep-sea coral habitats from Florida to Maine, in Alaska and the West Coast, and in Hawaii and the Marianas Trench. The program has conducted research cruises off the Southeastern U.S. Using sonar technology and remotely operated and manned submersibles, new deep-sea coral reefs were discovered off the Southeastern seaboard.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association\)](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) is one of eleven Regional Associations that partner with the NOAA led Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS®) to address regional and national needs for coastal and ocean data and information. SECOORA coordinates coastal and ocean observing activities in the southeast. Its mission is to observe, understand, and increase awareness of our coastal ocean; promoting knowledge, economic and environmental health through strong regional partnerships. SECOORA invests in buoys and other technologies to collect information about the ocean to help keep Georgians safe.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Georgia. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Georgia and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Charleston, South Carolina to support mariners and stakeholders in the Southeast region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Response Team](#)

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating the Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. NRT-Fernandina is homeported in Fernandina Beach, FL and is able to respond within 24 to 48 hours.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. Subject to availability of funding, the program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements for important lands threatened by development. Since 2002, the program has protected more than 110,000 acres of coastal land nationally, including over 16,000 acres protected as in-kind matching contributions. NOAA awarded two grants in Georgia, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Georgia. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Digital Coast](#)

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related the tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership effort between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife. In Georgia, the NCRF awarded a project in FY19 and two projects in FY20.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [OR&R Regional Preparedness Coordinator](#)

The Regional Preparedness Coordinator is a National Ocean Service (NOS) Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between NOS and its federal, state, and local disaster preparedness and emergency response partners. DPP has a Regional Preparedness Coordinator serving the Southeast region – North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The DPP supports NOS, and federal, state, and local partners in their ability to assess risks and respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters and pollution events. The DPP provides a breadth of preparedness, response, and recovery services to allow NOS and our partners move through the emergency management cycle efficiently, safely, and effectively including planning, training, exercises, response coordination, continuous improvement, and long-term recovery.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Resource Coordinator](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) brings decades of experience, technical expertise and scientific analysis in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills. Eleven Regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. OR&R also helps develop preparedness plans that identify spill response actions with the greatest environmental benefit and trains hundreds of members of the response community each year on the scientific and technical aspects of spills. Recent major responses include the car carrier Golden Ray that capsized off Brunswick, GA. OR&R provided scientific support to the USCG and Unified Command in this lengthy response and salvage effort.

OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of Regional Resource Coordinators (RRC's) work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. ERMA staff continued to work closely with Federal and State agencies for drills, hurricane response, and incidents. Maintained habitat data for sensitive species. Ensured data was kept up-to-date and data collection methods were kept consistent.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Southeast Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. In Georgia, the MDP has worked with state and local governments, and other stakeholders, to develop the Georgia Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide and implement the Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [National Data Buoy Center Buoys](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation's coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate. NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

[Statewide](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Southeast Regional Office](#) and [Southeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS studies, protects and conserves living marine resources to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. NMFS' Southeast Regional Office (headquartered in Saint Petersburg, FL) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Miami, FL) are responsible for living marine resources in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic and U.S. Caribbean. Using the authorities provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and other federal statutes, the Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center partner together to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammal and sea turtle populations, as well as other protected resources, including coral. Additionally, in collaboration, they develop and ensure compliance with fishery regulations, restore and protect habitat, and recover threatened and endangered species in waters off Georgia and throughout the Southeast Region. The Southeast Regional Office also fosters sustainable [aquaculture](#) in the region, with two Regional Aquaculture Coordinators that act as a liaison between federal and state agencies to assist in permitting and coordination activities, supporting aquaculture outreach and education, and collaborating with industry, academia and other stakeholders on regional marine aquaculture issues. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center, along with State partners, monitors the migration of the critically endangered right whales each year along the Georgia coast, an important calving/nursery area for this species.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with private and public partners locally and nationwide to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat. In Georgia, they focus on restoring oyster reefs and coastal shorelines. Since 2003, more than nine projects have been initiated and over 570 volunteers have contributed their efforts to coastal habitat restoration through the Community-based Restoration Program. The Restoration Center, in cooperation with federal partners, the states of Georgia and South Carolina, along with regional and local entities, is involved in several projects in Savannah Harbor associated with the Georgia Ports Authority Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. Through the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program, the Restoration Center also collaborates with other agencies, industry, and citizens to protect and restore coastal marine resources in Georgia threatened or injured by oil spills, releases of hazardous substances, and vessel groundings.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency,

property values and quality of life. In Georgia, the Program is currently working to restore natural resources in cases including the LCP Chemical hazardous waste site.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Raleigh, North Carolina serving the Mid-Atlantic region – Delaware, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, the Virgin Islands, Virginia, and Washington D.C. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which three are in Georgia.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 17 ASOS stations in Georgia.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 136 COOP sites in Georgia.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 30 NWR transmitters in Georgia.

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Georgia, ELP supports the Southern Stingray Bowl in Georgia, one of 25 regional competitions of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB). The NOSB is an academic competition that engages high school students in learning about ocean sciences and related STEM careers while helping them become knowledgeable citizens and environmental stewards. ELP supports the American Meteorological Society's DataStreame courses for K-12 educators through a grant and in-kind support. These courses use weather, climate, and the ocean as contexts for teaching science and improving understanding about the Earth system.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Georgia Sea Grant College Program](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain, and Guam. The Georgia Sea Grant College Program is headquartered at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens. Through statewide research, education and extension programs, Georgia Sea Grant works to promote the wise use of marine and coastal resources. Georgia Sea Grant sponsors research projects with universities and research institutions throughout the state in the areas of coastal ecosystem health modeling, marine ecosystem dynamics, fisheries' health, coastal hazards and water quality. The program partners with UGA Marine Extension, located in Savannah, Brunswick, Athens and Atlanta, to provide training and outreach to diverse stakeholders and decision makers, such as local governments, resource managers and coastal businesses. Extension staff also work with stakeholders to identify real-world challenges that can be addressed by scientific investigation. The efforts address issues critical to the economic and environmental health of coastal Georgia. Additionally, Georgia Sea Grant provides educational opportunities for students, interns and the public to learn about the marine environment. Extension agents are located in Brunswick and Savannah.

NOAA In Your State is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line, Corporate, or Staff Office listed.

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).
